



Squadron Officer College (SOC)

SOC MISSION

SOC develops Company Grade Officers as leaders of integrity ready to fly, fight, and win. The overarching umbrella of SOC includes in-residence Squadron Officer School (SOS) and the Distance Learning (DL) program along with curriculum development and mission support functions that enable day to day operations.

Return on investment: SOC provides the in-residence SOS curriculum to your officers and in turn the mentorship and tools to further develop their leadership, followership, and communication skills, as well as improve their physical fitness and cross-Air-Force-specialty awareness. This pamphlet briefly discusses material outlined in detail in the *SOC Commanders Handbook*.

For SOC Assistance, call the 24/7 help line at DSN: 493-4SOC (4762), commercial 334-953-4762.

Wing Commander Information

Eligibility: In accordance with (IAW) AFI 36-2301 Developmental Education, Active Duty captains must have more than four years and no more than seven years Total Active Federal Commissioned Service (TAFCS) at class start. A waiver for students beyond 7 years TAFCS may be approved by the home station wing commander so long as the student will not pin on Major either before or during their SOS class. The attendance philosophy for SOS is that it is a 100% opportunity not a 100% obligation program.

Waiver Authority & Exception to Policy (ETP): The Squadron Officer College Commander (SOC/CC) is the waiver authority for any ETP requests and will not disapprove without first speaking to the requesting WG/CC. SOS seeks students who are credible in their jobs, can communicate effectively and who are physically fit.

Officers with temporary profiles are normally not authorized to attend SOS. If there are extenuating circumstances related to the student's profile, long-term medical concerns, upcoming deployment, promotion boards, etc., then consideration will be given to requests for ETP.

The process for an ETP is outlined on the SOS website and in the *SOC Commanders Handbook*.

Graduation: Graduation is an education day. For planned non-attendance, an ETP must be coordinated in advance.

Squadron Commander Information

Administrative

Recall/Disenrollment: Once enrolled in the course, WG/CC or equivalent may recall students as required (family emergency, ops requirement). If the recall is within the first week of the course, units may send a replacement. Students recalled within the first

10 education days are normally allowed to return for a later course.

Students may be disenrolled for multiple reasons, including plagiarism and uncorrected marginal or deficient performance as well as discipline problems. IAW AFI 36-2406 *Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems*, a student will receive an AF Form 475 on completion or elimination from SOS. In the event of student marginal or deficient performance, the Student Squadron Commander (STUS/CC) will contact the student's Sq/CC or supervisor equivalent as required to ensure the home unit is aware. Further details regarding AF Form 475s generated as a result of disenrollment or upon graduation can be found in the *SOC Commanders Handbook*.

Fitness: A major component of the SOS experience revolves around fitness. IAW AFI 36-2301, all students must have a current physical fitness assessment for the duration of the class. Students are required to successfully complete the Fitness Initial Safety Test (FIST) on day two to ensure they are physically fit to complete the course. Failing to meet physical fitness standards can have significant consequences so particular scrutiny must be given to waiver requests.

Accompanied Students: Current lodging policy does not allow students to have children in Officer's Quarters, but does allow spouses. Students need to submit the request for spouse to reside in billeting through SOC Student Services NLT 14 days before class start. Additionally, lodging non-availability slips will not be provided unless the student's family members are on their travel orders. Students who bring families must find lodging off-base at their own expense. Students who are authorized (i.e. family members on travel orders or lodging non-availability slips) to stay off-base will receive full per diem for the Montgomery area.

Uniforms: Military uniform of the day (UOD) is typically ABU/flight suit Monday through Friday. Certain academic days will require students to wear Blues. Service Dress is required for the opening day ceremony, flight photo, and graduation ceremony. USAF PT gear is also required for all military students, and more than one set is recommended. Students must bring at least one serviceable ABU combination for rugged outdoor activities; an additional set of boots is

recommended. Students may elect to bring molded cleats for use during Field Leadership Exercise (FLEX) events and field day.



Innovative Programs for Today's Warrior

SOS Residence Program

SOS Distance Learning (DL) Course

Leadership Development Program (LDP)

Online Master's Program – Leadership Concentration (OLMP-LC)

SOS Residence Program

Background: SOS's first Commandant, Colonel Russell Ritchey, stated the school's purpose (circa 1950) was to "educate, motivate, and mentor Captains as current and future Air Force leaders." SOS is an environment where our company grade officers learn about leadership skills, enhance their current skills, and get the chance to exercise these skills in a setting where failure doesn't mean the loss of life or

national treasure. In short, SOS's purpose is to graduate officers more capable of effectively leading the USAF in the 21st Century security environment.



SOS builds upon the knowledge and skills imparted through pre-commissioning and professional experience to deliver a unique learning environment to Air Force Company Grade Officers (CGO), Department of the Air Force (DAF) civilians and International Officers (IO). During the course, students comprehend and embrace core values, ethics, and principles of officership that are distinct to the profession of arms and service in the US Air Force.

Total Force: On average, SOS annually hosts approximately 3,000 Line of the Air Force (LAF), 218 Non-LAF, 107 Air National Guard, 107 Air Force Reserve officers, and up to 100 DAF civilians. Approximately 100 international officers attend SOS after graduating from the 7-week Preparation Course located at the International Officer School (IOS).

Program of Study: The 196-hour, graduate-level curriculum accomplishes the SOS mission by testing and evaluating students on the entire spectrum of the full-range leadership model and across five different curriculum concentrations: profession of arms, leadership, communication, international security studies and warfare. Students are presented lessons in a building-block approach of six phases: individual reflection, team-building and leadership, flight and squadron leadership, leadership at the group and wing level, and leadership in the joint and strategic level

environments.

Distance Learning (DL) Course

The SOS DL program (MSOS003) was updated in January 2013 to consist of four individual courses. The first three courses are self-paced, each culminating in a proctored multiple choice exam. The fourth module is a 4-week facilitated course that includes monitored discussion threads and various written assignments. Students complete SOS DL by achieving a passing score on each of the four integrated courses of study. SOS DL is not a prerequisite for attending the SOS Residence Course.

Leadership Development Program (LDP)

This program is a series of graduate-level professional education courses that expand leadership development opportunities to all USAF and sister service officers in the rank of Second Lieutenant to Captain. The 4 voluntary courses focus on areas not already covered in the SOS curriculum, to include: flight commander leadership, organizational leadership, expeditionary leadership, and officer orientation. It is well-suited to be a flight commander course for those officers serving in traditional wings.

Online Master's Program-Leadership Concentration (OLMP-LC)

This program is a combined effort between SOC and ACSC and was developed to provide CGOs with an accredited, graduate-level learning opportunity directly applicable to their careers. Students who successfully complete the OLMP administered by ACSC will earn a Master's Degree in Military Operational Art and Science.

Coaching and mentoring airpower leaders today, preparing the senior leaders of tomorrow